

CLAIMS

We claim:

5 *Sub B17* 1. A computer related method for funding a state government procurement system comprising the acts of:

a. providing an internet-based procurement system by a services provider for use by a state government agency for procurement of goods and services;

b. providing an Internet portal for use by the state government agency to communicate electronically with the internet-based procurement system; and

10 c. providing an Internet portal for use by a qualified vendor wishing to sell goods and/or services to the state government agency, whereby the vendor pays a fee to the services provider for an opportunity to be connected to the internet-based procurement system.

15 2. The method of claim 1 comprising an additional act of providing the internet-based procurement system to the state government agency for a negotiated price payable to the services provider wherein the negotiated price is designed to provide direct cost savings to the state government agency over other methods of procuring equivalent goods or services.

20 *Sub B2* 3. The method of claim 2 comprising an additional act of providing an Internet portal for a customer of the state government agency, whereby the customer can execute an electronic transaction, via the internet-based procurement system, with the state government agency in exchange for a fee

25 payable to the services provider.

30 *Sub C* 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the state government agency is able to use the internet-based procurement system to sell by auction or other methods, obsolete or excess inventory held by the state government agency to interested buyers.

5. A computer based method for a state government procurement system comprising the acts of:

a. providing an internet-based procurement system by a services provider for use by a state government agency for procurement of goods and services, where the internet-based procurement system is funded by fees comprising payments from participating vendors, payments by investment from the services provider, payments by transaction fees collected from users of the internet-based procurement system and payments by reduced fees from the state government agency; and

b. providing an Internet portal for use by the state government agency to communicate electronically with the internet-based procurement system to communicate electronically with vendors for goods or services desired by the state government agency.

6. The method of claim 5 comprising an additional act of providing an Internet portal for use by a qualified vendor wishing to sell goods and/or services to the state government agency, whereby the vendor pays a fee to the services provider for the opportunity to be connected to the internet-based procurement system.

7. The method of claim 6 comprising an additional step of providing an Internet portal for a customer of the state government agency, whereby the customer can execute an electronic transaction, via the internet-based procurement system, with the state government agency in exchange for a fee payable to the services provider.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the state government agency is able to use the internet-based procurement system to sell by auction or other methods, obsolete or excess inventory held by the state government agency to interested buyers.

put B4 > 9. A system for providing Internet-based electronic procurement services to a state government agency, comprising:

- a computer having a processor, a memory, a database, and communications connections to the Internet, the computer provided by a services provider;
- a first server mechanism coupled to the computer for providing procurement channels between buyers and sellers of goods and services;
- a second server mechanism coupled to the first server mechanism for communicating with an Internet portal in the state government agency; and
- a third server mechanism coupled to the computer for communicating with a qualified vendor of goods or services who is willing to pay a fee to the services provider for the opportunity to deal with the state government agency, the fee providing a basis for reducing the price of the procurement system to the state government agency.

10. A system for implementing a computerized eProcurement system for a state government agency, comprising:

a server computer hosting an eProcurement system accessible via client computers to a plurality of state government agencies who comprise potential buyers of goods and/or services, said eProcurement system including a user interface (UI) comprising controls whereby a state government agency user selects criteria and a display whereby results are displayed ;

a database of information electronically coupled to the server computer concerning goods and services available from a plurality of a qualified vendors of goods or services who are willing to pay a fee for the opportunity to deal with the state government agency ;

whereby said eProcurement system is available via the Internet to assist a state government agency buyer in locating a product or service of interest and in locating a specific qualified vendor.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein the computerized eProcurement system for a state government agency is provided by a services provider for use by the state government agency for procurement of goods and services, where the computerized eProcurement system is funded by fees comprising payments from participating vendors, payments by investment from the services provider, and payments by transaction fees collected from users of the computerized eProcurement system.

12. An internet based method for use in an eProcurement system by a state government agency comprising the following acts:

providing a web site having a user interface (UI), wherein the UI includes user input and display windows for use by a state government agency user;

receiving at the web site user inputs indicative of a desired product or service;

determining from a database whether the desired product or service is available from a qualified vendor wishing to sell goods and/or services to the state government agency, whereby the vendor pays a fee to a services provider for the opportunity to be connected to the eProcurement system; and

providing information regarding the availability of the desired product or service to the state government agency user, wherein the cost of the eProcurement system is funded by fees comprising payments from participating vendors, payments by investment from the services provider, payments by transaction fees collected from users of eProcurement system and payments of reduced fees from the state government agency.

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